Allocation of time for State Government's programmes on Doordarshan

†2518. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT:
SHRI SURYAKANT ACHARYA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government or the Prasar Bharati have any direction or fixed policy for allotting time slot for programmes detailing State Government's performance on regional Centres of Doordarshan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Central Government does not control day to day programme aspects of Prasar Bharati (Doordarshan). Prasar Bharati have informed that if the State Government requests for some slots for their publicity and promotion of activities, Regional Kendras of Doordarshan consider such requests on case to case basis under sponsored category depending on the availability of slots in each Regional Kendra.

In addition, all Regional Kendras of Doordarshan located in the specific region are producing locally relevant programmes of public interest through in-house production which reflect the developmental programmes of the State Government also.

Lack of promotional avenues for correspondents

2519. SHRI ALI ANWAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 51 correspondents were recruited in 1988 on the recommendations of P.C. Joshi Committee report;

(b) whether it is also a fact that huge amount was spent on their training;

(c) whether half of them quit service within 5-6 years, due to lack of promotional avenues; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) the steps Government propose to take to create promotional channels for them?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The employees are generally given in service training from time to time to upgrade their working knowledge and skills.

(c) and (d) The posts of TV News Correspondent/Assistant TV News Correspondents are in an isolated cadre. However, in the absence of promotional avenues, they have been granted the benefit of promotion under ACP Scheme introduced by the Government as applicable to all other Central Government employees. But, still some of the employees keep on switching jobs in search of better career options.

Commissioning of FM Radio in Darjeeling

†2520. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to commission an FM radio in Darjeeling, at the earliest;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be commissioned; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) There is an approved scheme to set up 10KW FM transmitter with field production facilities at Darjeeling. A site for setting up Radio Station was re-demarcated. After demarcation there was a problem of free access to the site as the approach was through private land. Now it has been sorted out. Administrative approval and Expenditure sanction for construction of boundary wall has also been issued. Architectural drawing for building have been approved and Preliminary Estimates for building works are being prepared. Further works to set up Radio station are in progress. It is likely to be completed during 11th Five Year Plan period, subject to availability of funds and decision about sanction of Operation & Maintenance staff.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.